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 CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY
INFORMATION REPORT

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SUBJECT Border Guard Brigades in Volary and Plana

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- By an order issued on 1 December 1950 by the Ministry of National Defense (sic), special border guard units subordinated to the Ministry of Interior were organized to seal the Czech-German border and prevent illegal border crossings. The new units are organized as brigades with a total strength of about 2,000 men each. So far, brigade headquarters have been identified at Volary, Plana and Cheb. Each brigade consists of eight battalions of five companies. The border units are manned by soldiers in their second year of compulsory training, who receive a special course of training before being assigned to border guard duty. Over half of these men are Slovaks. The training courses are of two to three months duration and are given at brigade headquarters. They consist of political education and training in border guard duties. Each man is armed with a submachine gun with two clips, a 7.65 mm pistol with two clips and one Skoda hand grenade. The submachine guns are of various makes at present, but an effort is being made to supply all units with new Czech submachine guns.
- The headquarters of the brigade in Volary (unit no. 9500) is located in the Tourist Hotel near the railroad station. The brigade commander is Major Galus. Battalions in this brigade are located at:

- a. Zelezna Ruda
- b. Frasily
- c. Kasperske Hory
- d. Kvilda
- e. Kunzvar
- f. Stozec (Tusset)
- g. Horni Plana
- h. Dolni Vltavice

Border guard companies are billeted in new wooden huts which have been erected in pairs all along the Czech-German [redacted] border about 500 m from the border line and from one to two km apart according to the terrain. In each case one building is used to house the troops and the other to house the unit kitchen, ammunition stores, and offices of the commanding officer and his deputy. The buildings are guarded by one sentry day and night. Company headquarters are connected with battalion headquarters by telephones and radio.

Company headquarters have been identified in Lenora, Zatoni, Radvanice, and Nove Udoli.

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-2-

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50X1-HUM

3. Tank traps are being built or reinforced on all roads in the border region. It is reported that in the spring of 1951 barbed wire entanglements will be laid out along the entire length of the border. Frequent inspections of the area are made by officers of the Military Geographic Institute. One heavy machine gun company with 16 guns of type CZ39 and one motorized company with 14 Skoda trucks, one anti-tank company and one auxiliary company have been detached from the 66th Infantry Battalion in Vimperk for duty with the border guard brigade in Volary.

50X1-HUM

4. The frontier guard brigade in Plana is commanded by Captain Ilronadka, [redacted] Battalions subordinate to this brigade include one each in Marianske Lazne, Chodova Plana and Dolni Zandov. The battalion in Dolni Zandov has the cover name Don and is commanded by Lt. Kovarik, [redacted] The five companies subordinate to it are located in Nove Moshlno, Dylon, Oldrich, Slatina and Tri Sekery.

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